

The University News

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VOLUME I.

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NO. 1

OPENING OF UNIVERSITY.

Attended With Elaborate Program and Much Ceremony.

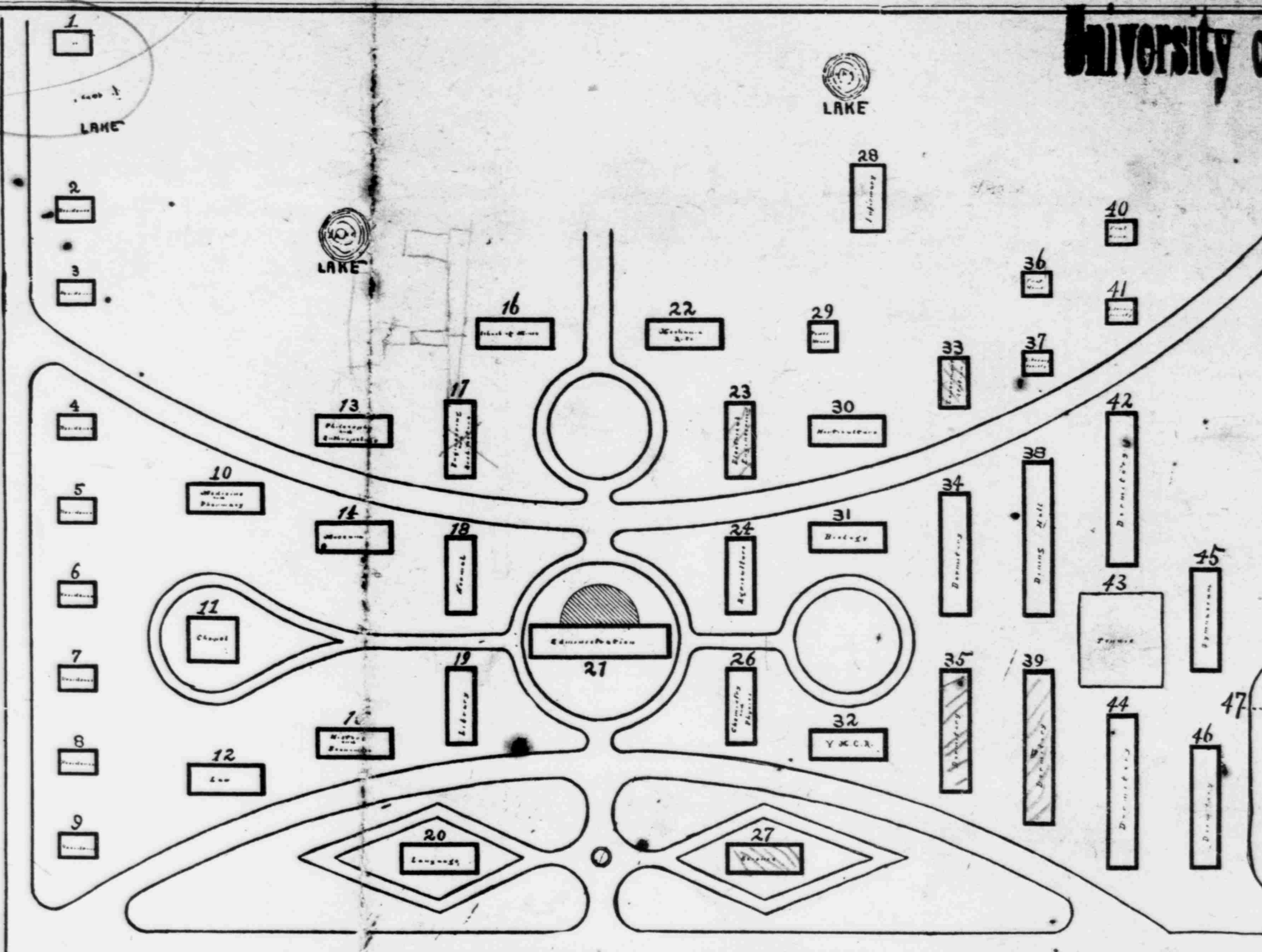
Speeches by Florida's Favorite Sons—That of Hon. N. P. Bryan Being Replete with Good Points is Reproduced for the Benefit of our Readers.

Thursday of last week was one that will remain green in the memory of Gainesville people for a long time to come. It was the day set apart for the public celebration of the opening of the University of the State of Florida in its new location on the beautiful site one mile west of the Court House, and just over the city limits of Gainesville. For several days the citizens were engaged in preparing for the event, the stores outside and in were decorated profusely with the colors of the University and appropriate mottoes were in frequent evidence. A large number of students had already reported and these with their friends and relatives added considerably to the crowds upon the streets. The Committee of Arrangements had formulated an attractive program of exercises, secured a fine band and the ladies—as is always the case—were active in promoting the success of the day, by arranging a reception with refreshments to be enjoyed after the speaking. Shortly after dinner everyone began wending their way toward the University grounds, and by three

in the minds of his audience. President A. A. Murphree of the Florida Female College was the next speaker on the program, and delighted every one with his oratorical display in handling the subject "The Unity of the State School System. Hon. N. P. Bryan, Chairman of the Board of Control had for his theme "The University of the State of Florida," and we were fortunate enough to secure a greater part of his remarks, which we present to our readers. Mr. Bryan said:

"Florida, as a State, is sixty-one years old. The act of Congress which admitted her into the Union, recognizing the value of education, made provision for two seminaries of learning, one east and one west of the Suwannee River. The one east was located at Gainesville; the one west, at Tallahassee. The state then proceeded to wander and roam in the educational field for sixty years, having established in that period of time, in addition to these seminaries, institutions of learning, for the education of the white children of the state, at Lake City, DeFuniak Springs, Bartow and St. Petersburg, and made appropriation for at least one other. Then came the Legislature of 1905.

Long before, it had become apparent that so many institutions of similar aim, purpose and scope were not only unnecessary



Ground Plan of the University of Florida.

telligent wills, trained minds, educated intellects. What power can be more concerned in the existence and maintenance of this condition than the government itself—the State? The state recognizes private and sectarian colleges and universities as valuable laborers in this great work, and

leaders in the Florida of the past. The purpose of this University is to educate the young men of the state and to assist in this development. And it is intended that the instruction here given shall be equal to the best anywhere. We have a loyal hardworking faculty, specialists in the subjects

Young men of high character, with skilled hands and trained minds are worth more to the State than all the piled-up wealth of the merely rich. You cannot look into the bright face of a Florida boy, poor and uncounted though he may be, struggling to pay for his own education, determined to do or die, and prop-

Why, the people of Jacksonville, but lately stricken by a great fire, only last April gave out of their necessities about \$15,000,000 to relieve suffering in far-away California. Surely the people of Florida out of the abundance with which the Lord has blessed them, will gladly contribute to supply the necessities of their

the occasion and was packed to over flowing, many being unable to secure seats. After a benediction by the Rev. T. P. Hay of the Presbyterian church, the Hon. W. W. Hampton, was introduced and made one of the finest welcoming addresses ever listened to by the people of Florida. It is to be regretted that it is impossible to publish his remarks in full, for they would make excellent reading and a good reference for rising orators.

Mr. Hampton classed the day as a "red letter" one in the history of Gainesville and expressed his pleasure in having the duty thrust upon him of welcoming the distinguished gentlemen present, as well as the students. He then referred to the birth of the Buckman bill, and the indignation of the people at the thoughts of losing the time honored East Florida Seminary with its many loving and sacred memories. The people however accepting the inevitable then bent their energies, under the management of Mayor W. R. Thomas, W. N. Wilson and other progressive men, to secure the coveted prize of the new University. We won a glorious victory, as is witnessed today by these magnificent buildings, and for these "carved for eternity," he was bidden to declare our fraternal appreciation of the noble work done by the Board of Control. Mr. Hampton extended hearty greetings to the student body and extended them the hospitality of the town, our homes and firesides, and hoped that when they left the University they would carry with them a tender spot for Gainesville and her people.

His Excellency, Gov. N. B. Broward followed in an address upon "Education and citizenship" which was delivered in that plain convincing manner characteristic of the speaker, and brought many plain every day, matters to the front and indelibly impressed them

their warfare. Our position was unique, unprecedented, anomalous. Without meaning, or assuming to say, that these institutions were of no benefit, but frankly conceding that much good was accomplished, I do assert that this benefit was at least sectional, if not local, in character.

Then came the Buckman Bill, drastic in its provisions, seemingly cruel in its abolition features; but I verily believe wise in theory and statesman-like in meeting these conditions which had grown up among us. Its great central idea is concentration.

And so we have come back to Gainesville and Tallahassee for locations.

Gainesville, beautiful in her surroundings, patriotic, enthusiastic, big-hearted Gainesville opens wide her doors and bids the boys of the State welcome.

Likewise Tallahassee, the favored child of the state, rich in history and tradition, cultured and refined, presses to her bosom the girls of the State, and bids them welcome.

We have now a complete system of education, beginning in the primary department of the grammar school, progressing through the high school, and ending in the Florida Female College for the girls and the University of the State of Florida for the boys.

Where there have heretofore been a few localities and sections vying with each other for advantage and preference, let all localities and all sections work together in harmony for the advancement of all the institutions of higher education supported by the State. Where there have heretofore been bitterness and discord; let there be reconciliation and unity. Let's have peace.

"But," you ask, "why not leave the cause of higher education to Stetson and Rollins, and the other colleges and universities of this and other states?" You say it is burden enough to pay the running expenses of the state, without being called upon and required to educate other peoples' children. Why tax for this purpose? Why have a State University at all? Why?

This is an old question, but the answer to it is very plain and simple. The same duty rests upon the state to complete the education of her future citizens as to begin it; and the reason in both cases is that an educated man makes a better citizen than an uneducated or ignorant man.

"All political power is inherent in the people." This country is governed by the will of the people, and in order to have good government we must have in-

in higher, collegiate and university education.

This is the age of the specialist. The so-called learned professions can no longer monopolize the technical instruction of our colleges and universities, but provision must also be made for the expert in other callings, such as teaching, engineering, pharmacy and agriculture. The time is past when "a soft hand in a kid glove" is the badge of a gentleman. It is no longer undignified to labor. We, as a people, are peculiarly dependent upon skilled labor in almost every calling of life.

From Pensacola on the west, in whose splendid harbor can float the navies of the world, on down through the—as yet—undrained Everglades, and beyond to Key West, the new gate-way to the countries south of us, Dame Nature has bestowed her choicest blessings. No land possessed of superior natural resources is to be found on the face of the habitable globe. It would be easier to mention the few we do not than to enumerate the many we do enjoy. Her golden fruit and her fleecy staple, greeting each other on their way to the markets of the world; her climate, sea coast, commerce, forests, phosphate, vegetables, fruits and agricultural and pasture lands, proclaim us a happy, prosperous and contented people.

With all these resources, Florida has only begun to be the great state she is destined to become. These resources will be developed by educated people; by our own educated people if we are wise; by educated people from elsewhere if we are not wise. Will our people take advantage of these opportunities, or will they be content to be servants and dependents of others? Will they be leaders, or will they be unskilled day laborers? They will be leaders, and I will tell you why. The people of this state are inferior to no people in mental and moral endowment. They were here when this State was a wilderness. They had the pluck to meet, with uncomplaining, splendid patience, courage and determination, the disastrous freeze of 1895, which swept away in a single night the accumulations of a life-time of hard, pioneer work, and in a short decade have made the achievements of the present rival the glories of the past, all without taking up a collection to relieve their suffering either.

These people will see to it that their children are equipped to take part in the achievements of the future. Their sons will be leaders in the Florida of the future just as their fathers have been

not be found anywhere. It has not been the purpose of the boards in charge to erect showy, expensive buildings, but we believe we have spent the State's money wisely in plain, comfortable, substantial, permanent structures. The campus is laid off with the idea of permanency. We have ample grounds for all present and future purposes. Other departments will be added as needed.

This is a public institution for the benefit of all the people. It makes no difference how poor you are or how rich you are, just so you are a gentleman and are willing to work.

If a boy goes out of Florida to get an education now, it is because he wants to, and not because he has to or ought to do it.

The advantages to a citizen of this State of an education obtained in it over an education obtained out of it are evident. When he gets through, he doesn't feel like "a stranger in a strange land." He has a State acquaintance with men who will be his associates, for life. He feels like he is at home and has an interest in his native State, her institutions and her people.

This, in brief, is what the State through her University offers her young men. And in return she expects them to be useful, upright citizens. She cannot ask more. They cannot afford to be less.

It may be suggested that all this costs money. Of course it does, but it is worth it. Education is cheap at any price. Ignorance is the costly, the expensive thing. It is always and everywhere true that the people who spend most on education are the richest, most powerful and most progressive people; while the vicious and criminal classes come almost exclusively from the ignorant people. Ignorance begets crime. More money will be spent by the taxpayers this year in the prosecution of criminals in the two counties of Duval and Hillsborough alone, than will be spent by the taxpayers to support this University serving all the forty-six counties of the State.

Another thing: Since the passage of the Buckman Bill the Government of the United States has spent vastly more money for the education of Florida boys than have the taxpayers of the State.

If anybody wants to establish a chair in this University or erect a building, well and good. It will be duly appreciated, and we will name it after him. But if such good fortune shall pass us by, we will still maintain that the State is able to care for her own.

There is more in life than money.

ture, will refuse to foster, support and maintain their public institutions. You, sir, (turning to the Governor) are not the Governor of a miserly, niggardly people, but of a people who have ever been controlled in such matters more by patriotism than by selfishness; more by great-hearted liberality than by calculating, close-fisted stinginess.

I believe the next Legislature will want to be satisfied that the appropriation asked will be necessary for the proper equipment and maintenance of the institutions temporarily under our care; but I do not believe that we will be placed in the attitude of begging for the young men and young women of the State.

Two years ago only one out of several proposed constitutional amendments was adopted by the people, but that one carried by a tremendous majority; and it was to tax themselves, to raise the constitutional millage to aid in the cause of public education.

then great riches; that "sound morals is the basis of good citizenship; that" liberty hath no abiding place save in the intelligence of the people."

"By their fruits ye shall judge them." The hope and pride of this University will center in the young men who now and from time to time hereafter, avail themselves of the privileges here so freely tendered.

May they represent her with credit while here, and when they leave, to return in the capacity of students no more, may they go forth, with her certificate that they are worthy, well equipped to take their places as leaders "in the several pursuits and professions of life."

May it soon be the proud privilege of this University, through the instrumentality and by the mighty power of this great State, voicing the will of the people, to make it easily possible for every worthy young man within her borders to secure a first-class University education.

Continued on Third Page



Governor N. P. Broward, Who favors the University and—Drainage.